

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application. The amendments made herein above are consistent with the restriction requirement claim groupings set forth in the parent application and the subsequent regrouping of the claims for examination as agreed to by the Examiner during the telephone interview on February 4, 2004. Claims 1 through 9 and 21 are canceled. Remaining pending claims 10 through 20 and 22 through 24 are drawn to the invention not examined in the parent application, upon which examination on the merits is now requested.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully Submitted



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